

## Program Improvement Plan Quarterly Performance Report: October 1, 2004 – September 30, 2005

This report summarizes quarterly progress on Rhode Island's Program Improvement Plan (PIP). The plan describes performance goals for the six national standards for child welfare agency performance as specified in the Child and Family Service Reviews conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families (ACF). Data for the report is compiled from RICHIST data for completed child protective service investigations and foster care placement data for the period October 1, 2004 through September 30, 2005. Baseline data is based upon data submitted to the Children's Bureau for the National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) and Adoption and Foster Care Reporting System (AFCARS) for Fiscal Year 2004 (October 1, 2003 through September 30, 2004). We will release these figures on a quarterly basis to monitor progress toward PIP performance goals.

### What is the Child and Family Service Review?

Beginning in 2000, the ACF began conducting Child and Family Service Reviews (CFSRs) to evaluate state child welfare program functioning. The CFSR process encompassed a range of indicators of program functioning including a statewide self assessment prepared by the agency, a comprehensive qualitative site review of systemic factors and child welfare outcomes for a random sample of cases, and performance against national quantitative standards established for six outcomes for all children active for the most recent available year.

Rhode Island completed its first CFSR in March 2004. To date, similar reviews have been conducted for all fifty states, Puerto Rico and the District of Columbia. To date, no state or jurisdiction has passed the initial round of reviews. A brief summary of Rhode Island's performance can be found online ([http://www.dcyf.state.ri.us/news/review\\_summary.htm](http://www.dcyf.state.ri.us/news/review_summary.htm)). In general, our review showed that we have strengths as well as areas needing improvement. The Program Improvement Plan (PIP) is the required response to the review, it defines our strategy for improving the services we provide to children and families which we believe will improve our outcomes as well. The completion date to achieve our target goals is August 2007. The RI PIP is a comprehensive plan that includes the six national standards highlighted in this report series (available at [http://www.dcyf.state.ri.us/docs/pip\\_final.pdf](http://www.dcyf.state.ri.us/docs/pip_final.pdf)).

### How was Rhode Island's progress during the first quarter?

Although it is difficult to detect child welfare system changes within a single quarter this report is a mechanism to communicate information about Program Improvement Benchmarks as we move toward our annual and target goals. Rhode Island's progress toward first quarter Program Improvement Benchmarks against the six national standards is detailed in the table below. Rhode Island continues to meet and exceed the standard for foster care adoption with approximately 50% of foster adoptions occurring within 24 months from entry. In addition, for this quarter we attained our annual objective for increasing the 12-month rate of foster care reunification (73.8%), and reducing the 12-month rate of foster care re-entry (17.3%).

Where larger gains are needed to achieve our Annual Goals is in the areas of reducing 6-month maltreatment recurrence, reducing the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect among children in foster care, and increasing the 12-month rate of placement stability among children in foster care.

Table: Six national standards for child welfare agency performance: 1<sup>st</sup> quarter PIP Progress

Child Welfare Outcome	National Standard	Baseline (FY04)	Current Quarter*	Annual Goal 8/2006	Target Goal 8/2007
1. Reduce 6 month rate of recurrence of maltreatment	6.1 %	7.8 %	8.9 %	7.45 %	6.9 %
2. Reduce the incidence of child abuse and/or neglect in foster care	0.57 %	1.09 %	1.4 %	1.02 %	0.95 %
3. Increase 12 month rate of reunification from foster care	76.2 %	71.0 %	73.8 %	72.2 %	73.42 %
4. Reduce 12 month rate of re-entry to foster care	8.6 %	21.3 %	17.3 %	20.5 %	19.95 %
5. Increase 24 month rate of adoption from foster care	32.0 %	49.8 %	49.3 %	**	49.8 %
6. Increase 12 month rate of foster care cases with 2 or fewer placements	86.7 %	84.8 %	84.5 %	85.8 %	86.7 %

\*Note. Projected outcome performance for Federal Fiscal Year 2005 (Oct. 1, 2004 – Sept. 30, 2005).

\*\*Note. RI exceeds the National Standard on this measure.